

WEATHER FORECAST:
Fair tonight and Tuesday.
Full Report on Page Two.

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KRAMER SAYS CROWDING OF SCHOOLS IS EVIL PRACTICE

Assistant Superintendent Explains How Congestion in Classes Proves Serious Handicap.

Points Out That Education of Children Is Demoralized by Circumstances That Distract Teacher.

Is the present overcrowding of the Washington schools a mere inconvenience or is it a serious handicap?

Is the double duty as building supervisors and class teachers, now imposed upon grade school principals, a slight annoyance or a genuine hindrance to work?

Both these conditions constitute a serious menace to the efficiency of Washington schools, in the opinion of Stephen E. Kramer, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Point is added to Mr. Kramer's statement by the fact that until two months ago, he was supervising principal of the Third division, in the fashionable Northwest, where the greatest congestion now exists.

Mr. Kramer virtually supports the charges made by Mrs. F. T. Dubois, of the Mothers' Congress, and by Mrs. F. L. Ransome, president of the Parents' League. And from the standpoint of an educator he tells why these evils are bad for pupils and teachers alike.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.
Overcrowding of school classes is one of the most serious handicaps to school efficiency from an educator's standpoint.

Taking time of teachers for any other duties during teaching hours is a hindrance to the teacher, but more than that it is demoralizing to her work.

Stephen Elliott Kramer, assistant superintendent of schools, today made these assertions following the session made through The Washington Times, of parents and friends of the schools for smaller grade school classes and for some arrangements, by which teachers might give undivided attention to pupils.

Mr. Kramer explained that the present situation is a serious factor in teaching. If I could afford it I would not have my child taught alone, because he would not get as much out of it. The stimulus of group work is a real and valuable asset.

For that reason and for the sake of economy, group classes always exist in public schools.

"But experience has shown that one teacher can handle only a certain number of pupils. Giving her too many pupils, and giving her too few, are equally disastrous. Between thirty and forty is generally acknowledged to be the ideal number. This is not mere theory. It has been worked out from long teaching experience."

Educators term the general benefit.

(Continued on Second Page.)

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.

Met at noon.

Conference report on Alaskan railroad bill submitted.

Judiciary Committee met.

Senator Fall spoke on Mexico and "took the floor" on the situation below the border.

Long list of crimes against Americans submitted.

HOUSE.

Met at noon.

District calendar taken up.

Congressman Johnson assailed E. H. Warner.

Judiciary Committee considered charges against Judge Wright, but took no definite action.

Trust hearings continued.

Labor Committee considered Palmer child labor bill.

Actress Is Sued By New Husband



GERTRUDE BONDHILL.

Miss Gertrude Bondhill, of Poli Stock Company, Who Was Married to American Consul Ray Last December, Is Defendant in Divorce Action Just Filed in Texas.

A suit for divorce has been filed by John Arthur Ray, American consul at Sheffield, England, against Gertrude Shafer Cavagna Ray, known to the Washington public as Gertrude Bondhill, a member of the Poli stock company.

The suit was filed in the town of Whitewright, Grayson county, Tex., the home of Mr. Ray. Papers were served on Miss Bondhill in this city last week by a representative of her husband's attorney.

The news that divorce proceedings would be instituted by Mr. Ray was forecast by the return to Miss Bondhill to the stage. The marriage took place in Ohio just before Christmas, and was the culmination of a romance which began in Washington while Consul Ray was here on leave of absence. He took his bride to Sheffield shortly after Christmas.

NO HINT OF TROUBLE.

No word was received to indicate Ray is a native of Texas and a graduate of Yale University. He was at one time an instructor in the Naval Academy, but entered the consular service about five years ago. He has been stationed at Mankato, Arabia, and Maracaibo, Venezuela.

WANTS 75-CENT GAS FOR THE DISTRICT

Senator Norris Proposes Two Amendments Affecting Contemplated Merger.

Senator Norris of Nebraska today raised the question of 75-cent gas in the District of Columbia in an amendment which he offered to the District bill. He presented two amendments. One provides that on and after July 1, 1915, regardless of the proposed merger with the Georgetown company, the Washington Gas Light Company shall not charge over 75 cents a thousand cubic feet for gas.

It also provides that after that date and until the merger is effected the Georgetown Gas Light Company shall not charge over 85 cents.

The other amendment provides that the Washington Gas Light Company shall be authorized to purchase as much as it can obtain of the 250 shares of the Georgetown company at a price to be fixed by the Public Utilities Commission.

The amendment agreed on by the Senate Appropriations Committee fixes the price of the shares at 115.

CLARKSBURG STREET

IS SWEEPED BY BLAZE

CLARKSBURG, W. Va., March 8.—At least three persons are missing and believed to be dead, and three others probably were fatally injured by jumping to escape flames which early today swept one of the principal business blocks on West Main street. The four-story Lowe building was destroyed and the ten-story Union Bank building was gutted.

The upper floors of both buildings were divided into apartments and many families fled in their night clothing. Firemen restrained many panic-stricken flat dwellers from leaping to certain death.

CONVICTION OF 24 DYNAMITERS UPHOLD

Supreme Court Decides Frank M. Ryan and 23 Steel Workers Must Go to Jail.

President Frank M. Ryan and twenty-three members of the Bridge and Structural Steel Workers' Union convicted in the celebrated dynamite conspiracy case must serve their jail sentences, the Supreme Court decided today, having refused to review their conviction in the lower Federal courts at Indianapolis and Chicago. Denial of the writ of review exhausted the last resource of the defendants.

Confessions of Otto McManigal and James B. McNamara, former secretary of the union, formed the basis of the convictions of the defendants who appeared to the Supreme Court. They were tried and convicted at Indianapolis in violation of the interstate commerce laws. Their conviction was recently affirmed by the appellate Federal court at Chicago. Dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times started the prosecution and disclosure of wholesale plots and outrages.

Several of the defendants are now serving jail sentences unable to secure bail. Originally there were thirty-two defendants. Those whose cases were under advisement today are Frank M. Ryan, John H. Barry, Eugene Francis, Michael J. Youngs, Frank C. Webb, Philip A. Conley, John T. Butler, Charles H. Bean, Henry W. Leckert, Edward Smythe, George Anderson, James W. Haver, W. Bert Brown, Paul J. Morris, William E. Rodden, Michael J. Cunniffe, Michael J. Hannon, Murray L. Fendell and Frank J. Higgins.

Dr. Shaw Asks Senate to Ignore Mrs. Belmont

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw today sent a letter to Senator Thomas, which was presented to the Senate, in which she assailed Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, who lately took a stand against permitting the suffrage resolution to go in a vote in the Senate.

Dr. Shaw said Belmont had authority to speak for the organized suffragists of the National Woman Suffrage Association except some of the officials.

TEXAS MUST ANSWER FOR RAID OF RANGERS

SENATOR FALL URGES ARMED INTERVENTION

Long List of Crimes Against American Citizens Instanced Before Senate—State Department Assailed in Passionate Speech.

Declaring that in the last twelve months America has "fiddled while Mexico burned," giving in detail a long list of American men and women murdered and outraged in Mexico; referring to the hundreds of millions of American property destroyed; and graphically portraying a reign of horror and desolation in Mexico, Senator Fall today took the lid off the Mexican situation on the floor of the Senate of the United States.

It is the first time since the Mexican trouble has become acute that this has been done in either House. The Senator from New Mexico submitted a detailed list of no less than sixty-three cases of murder, outrage, and like crimes to citizens of the United States, including a few citizens of other nations.

Senators sat enthralled before his passionate statements.

The fact that he spoke just following the raid of Texas rangers, who dashed across the international line to seize the body of the murdered American ranchman, Vergara, added to the intensity of the interest.

Senator Fall spoke in support of the Poindexter resolution requesting the President to send to the Senate information as to what measures have been taken to protect Americans in Mexico.

"WE OWE IT TO THE WORLD."

JOHNSON CHARGES ATTEMPT AT BRIBERY

"Shown Avenues of Graft" by Brainerd H. Warner, Real Estate Dealer, of Capital.

Charges that he had been "offered an indirect bribe" were made on the floor of the House this afternoon by Congressman Johnson, chairman of the District of Columbia Committee.

"Brainerd H. Warner, a real estate dealer, of this city, took me up on the heights and showed me the avenues of graft surrounding the Capitol," Johnson claimed.

He told me an ex-member of the committee and House had made money through co-operation with him, and he remarked that I was standing in the way of some of his real estate deals.

Warner said that if the members didn't have the money it was put up for him. Johnson charged that Warner has subsequently sought to remove him by means of a civil committee. Johnson refused to name the Congressman whom Warner involved.

Warner Denies Charge Made by Congressman

Brainerd H. Warner made emphatic denial this afternoon of the accusations of Congressman Johnson in the House that Mr. Warner had offered him a thinly veiled bribe.

"I deny it absolutely," said Mr. Warner. "There is not a word of truth in it, and I am astonished. I have never spoken to Mr. Johnson about real estate. I have been out of the real estate business for years. I have never seen or talked to Mr. Johnson since he went in his committee room. I have not been there or conversed with him for at least six months. He must have confounded me with some one else. The statements made are absolutely incorrect."

A. F. Howison Submits Bankruptcy Petition

Allan T. Howison, a contractor and builder, filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy in the District Supreme Court today, listing his liabilities at \$2,500 and his assets at \$1,200. His attorney, C. C. James, declared today the failure was due to a mistake of \$18,000 in the contractor's estimate on the James Ormond Wilson School.



Above—GOVERNOR COLQUITT, of Texas. Below—SENATOR FALL of New Mexico.

STATION PLAZA IS TO BE MADE INTO LAWN

Commissioner Harding Has Approved Plans to Remove Eyesore of Cinders.

Plans for the improvement of the Union Station plaza were approved by the Engineer Commissioner today.

The broad expanse of cinders in front of the station, long an eyesore to visitors and residents, as well, is to be converted into a lawn. Work will begin immediately under the supervision of C. B. Hunt, engineer of highways, and Truman Latham, superintendent of trees and parkways, and will be completed by April 15.

The plaza covers an area of 6,000 square yards, 5,000 of which will be planted in grass seed. Either brick or cement pavements will cover the remainder.

The improvement of the plaza, according to the engineering officials, has been delayed in order to allow the ground to settle. Its condition is now such that the work may proceed without difficulty.

HOME RULE CRISIS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

LONDON, March 9.—Facing, perhaps, the largest crowd that ever packed the House of Commons, Prime Minister Asquith late this afternoon precipitated the Irish crisis by moving the twice rejected home rule bill for second reading and debate.

The premier followed his motion by outlining formally the government's proposed compromise with the Protestants of Ulster, whereby Irish counties would be given "local option" in the matter of self-government.

Asquith said that the cabinet proposed to allow counties in Ireland to refrain from participation in home rule by popular vote. Individual counties, said the prime minister, might remain under the jurisdiction of parliament at Westminster by a majority of their electors. Such elections must come before the establishment of a "public partition" as provided by the bill.

Six-Year Periods.

"Any county of Ulster or any other Irish province, can by such an arrangement, refuse to accept home rule for a period of six years," Premier Asquith said.

At the end of that period it would be necessary to hold another election on the proposition, to ascertain whether or not the people of the counties had changed their minds in regard to participation in Irish self-government.

The crucial point in Ireland's long fight for self-government, hand, peers and peacemakers rubbed elbows with long Irishmen in the rush for places in the galleries.

John Redmond, leading Irish Nationalist, Arthur Balfour, leader of the opposition, and a host of orators on both sides of the question are ready to pour out floods of eloquence in support of their respective contentions.

The debate on home rule was expected to run far into the night and continue tomorrow, perhaps even longer.

The proposal of Asquith was considered to have "drawn the veil" of the question in Ulster, where Sir Edward Carson has led a movement to resist home rule by force or arms and a "provisional" government, if necessary, measure along constitutional lines.

WILSON TO DEMAND REPORT OF COLQUITT

Rebuke for Crossing Border May Be Given. Object of Sortie Across International Line Is Not Considered—No Hasty Action to Be Taken By President.

The Texas authorities must assume responsibility for Saturday night's sensational raid into Mexican territory by armed rangers. Unless Governor Colquitt volunteers an immediate and satisfactory report, President Wilson will personally ask for it by wire. He made this plain to callers today.

Except for a brief dispatch from Consul Garrett that the body of Clemente Vergara was now on this side of the Mexican border, Administration officials are still in the dark concerning the part played by the Texas rangers in recovering the remains of the murdered American.

From unofficial sources the Department of State has been informed that the rangers did not actually cross the border, but received it on this side, after it had been obtained from the cemetery. Another unofficial report says the rangers did cross the border.

Consul Garrett, who was present when the body reached the American side, wired that he would send a full report by mail.

The object of the raid, the recovery of the body of Clemente Vergara, which had been buried at Hidalgo, Mexico, after he was tortured and slain by Mexican federals, will not be considered by the Administration. That was merely the culmination of a circumstance that may prove decidedly dangerous. If Texan rangers carrying arms invaded Mexico in direct opposition to the warnings of the National Government it may be necessary for the National Government not only officially to disavow this act, but also sharply to rebuke those who permitted it.

There will be no hasty action by President Wilson. He made it plain today that a full and complete inquiry has already been instituted and that until it ends no statement will be forthcoming from either himself or from Secretary of State Bryan that will deal with the merits of this new complication.

NO ADVANCE NEWS OF RAID.

The President, with more than usual vigor, denied that this Government had any advance information concerning the raid. Reports that Consul Garrett was cognizant of the plan were not credited by the President.

Every effort had been made by the Administration, the President told his callers, to prevent any invasion of any kind of Mexico by armed Americans. The Administration had taken up the Vergara case with the Mexican government, he having been slain by federals.

Consul Garrett had been investigating in person. But at no time had the President or his advisers even considered sending armed men to take the body by force. In fact, less than a week ago the President took the position that any such action with the consent of the Federal Government would in effect be a declaration of war, and an armed invasion.

It is because this is his position that the President is seriously concerned over Saturday night's raid. He sent for Secretary Bryan this morning just as soon as he got up and secured details of the affair. Bryan was told that a complete and thorough investigation must be made at once.

Orders To Bliss.
The President then got in touch with Secretary of War Garrison and through him orders were sent to General Bliss, commanding the United States forces on the border, to send a complete report from the military standpoint. These two reports will be checked one against the other, and then the Administration will decide what to do.

May Minimize Incident.
There is every indication that the Administration, fearing the effect of the incident on public opinion, will seek to minimize its importance. Senator Shively of Indiana, acting chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, called at the White House and at the State Department this morning to learn how the Administration regarded the affair, in order that he might present the President's views in case the matter came up in debate on the floor of the Senate.

No news has yet come to the State Department regarding the case of

Taxicabs Must Give UP HOTEL MONOPOLY

Syme Preparing Regulation Designating Certain Streets as Public Hack Stands.

Taxicab companies are no longer to be permitted to monopolize the streets in front of hotels.

Corporation Counsel Syme today began the preparation of an amendment to the police regulations designating the space in front of the downtown hotels as public hack stands. Under the proposed regulation, taxicabs will be permitted to occupy one side of the thoroughfare and horse-drawn vehicles the other.

Corporation Counsel Syme's action follows Justice Stafford's decision that taxicabs are common carriers and subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission. It was brought out in the testimony that the taxicabs enjoy the exclusive privilege of occupying public space, for which it was declared the hotels are paid thousands of dollars annually.

Sociologists Plead For Child Labor Bill

Dr. McKelvey and Owen Lovejoy, of the National Child Labor Committee, and Mrs. Florence Kelly, of the National Consumers' League today pleaded with the House Labor committee to act favorably on the Palmer child labor bill. They told the committee the measure is designed to deal a blow to the child labor evil by preventing interstate shipment of goods made by children under sixteen years. Congressman Palmer made an argument for the measure along constitutional lines.